Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 MC-02

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R 181046Z SEP 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1474 INFO DIA WASHDC CINCPAC AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH, LA

SUBJ: COMMENT BY THAI DEFENSE MINISTER ON ARMS SMUGGLING FROM LAOS TO THAILAND

1. ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BANGKOK HAS FILED SHORT MESSAGE SEPT 18 QUOTING THAI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER PRAMARN AS STATING THERE HAS BEEN INCREASED SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS FROM LAOS THROUGH NORTHEAST THAILAND SINCE PATHET LAO HAVE TAKEN OVER IN LAOS. PRAMARN STATED QTE WE'RE VERY CONCERNED OVER THE INCREASED SMUGGLING OF WEAPONRY FROM LAOS AND STOCKPILING OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS IN COMMUNIST INFESTED PROVINCES BORDERING LAOS, END QTE. PRAMARN ADDED THAT THAI BORDER PATROL UNITS HAVE CLASHED WITH ARMS SMUGGLERS FROM LAOS AT LEAST ON 35 OCCASIONS AND HAVE SEIZED HUNDREDS OF M16'S AND AK 47 RIFLES. AP REPORT ADDS THAT LAST WEEK THAI NAVAL PATROL UNIT ALONG MEKONG CLASHED WITH ARMS SMUGGLERS FROM LAOS AND HHAI NAVAL CAPTAIN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED (ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED, WITH PHOTOS, IN TODAY'S BANGKOK PRESS).

2. COMMENT: INTERVIEW WITH PRAMARN WAS NOT RPT NOT FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE, AND NO TRANSCRIPT IS AVAILABLE. AP TELLS US PRAMARN MADE ABOVE REMARKS TO AP REPORTER. PRAMARN STATEMENT APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLY MORE LURID THAN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION. THAI ISOC BRIEFING OFFICER TOLD ARMA LAST WEEK THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN ARMS SMUGGLING FROM LAOS BUT NOT RPT NOT OF ALARMING PROPORTIONS. EMBASSY WILL CHECK MATTER FURTHER AND REPORT RESULTS.

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: SMUGGLING, ARMS, PRESS COMMENTS

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Subject: COMMENT BY THAI DEFENSE MINISTER ON ARMS SMUGGLING FROM LAOS TO THAILAND TAGS: PINT, PINS, TH, LA, (PRAMAN ADIREKSAN)
To: STATE

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